

U.S. Officials Only

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY China

REPORT

SUBJECT

Agricultural Information on the Central Shensi Plain; Growing Seasons of Major and Minor Crops/Vegetables and Fruits/Consumption Habits of Farmers

PLACE ACQUIRED

50X1-HUM

DATE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)

DATE DISTR. 8 July 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

50X1-HUM

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTION 793 AND 794 OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE RECORDING OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

1. The area to which the following information applies is the central Shensi plain, the region known as Kwangchung and comprising more than half the total area of the province.

2. MAJOR CROPS

Crop	Planting Date	Harvesting Date	Irrigation
Wheat (most is winter wheat)	late Sep	late May	most of crop irrigated
Cotton	early Apr	Sep-Oct	all of crop irrigated
Rice	Mar-Apr	Jun-Jul	all
Millet	mid-Apr	Aug	most not irrigated
Corn (first crop) (major crop for livestock feed) (second crop)	early-Apr	Jun-early Jul	most not irrigated
		Sep-Oct	

50X1-HUM

U.S. Officials Only

CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION/	STATE X	ARMY X	NAVY X	AIR X	FBI				
---------------	---------	--------	--------	-------	-----	--	--	--	--

50X1-HUM

This report is for the use within the USA of the Intelligence components of the Departments or Agencies indicated above. It is not to be transmitted overseas without the concurrence of the originating office through the Assistant Director of the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA.

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-2-

3. MINOR CROPS (generally non-irrigated)

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Planting Date</u>	<u>Harvesting Date</u>
Yellow soybeans	Apr-May	Sep to early Oct
Black soybeans	same	same
Green soybeans (used mostly for feed)	same	same
Peas	late Feb-early Mar	late Apr-early May
Peanuts	spring	Sep
Sweet potatoes (important in northern Kwanchung where soil not too good for wheat)	Apr	Jul (early harvest for feed) Sep (late harvest)
Barley	late Mar-early Apr	late May
Sorghum (raised only in certain areas of northwestern Kwanchung)	mid-Apr	late Aug-early Sep
Glutinous rice	same	same

4. VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

About five percent of the average Kwanchung farmer's cropland was planted to vegetables and somewhere between one and three percent of the total cropping area of the region was in vegetables. Most Kwanchung farmers raised at least radishes and Chinese cabbage (pai ts'ai) for home consumption. Chinese cabbage was the most important garden crop in Kwanchung. Nearly all of the vegetable production for the market was in the hands of special vegetable farmers. In addition to cabbage and radishes, the principal vegetables in the region are:

Turnips	Onions
Carrots	Garlic
Potatoes	Chive
Spinach	Squash
Tomatoes	Cucumbers

Kwanchung has the following fruits:

Melons (especially watermelons)	Grapes
Apricots	Persimmons (cheapest of all fruits in the region)
Apples	Dates
Peaches	Pomegranates (Shensi is famous for them)
Pears	Figs (home-grown only; not available in fruit markets)

Walnut and almond trees are rather widely cultivated in Kwanchung.

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS

50X1-HUM

-3-

5. CONSUMPTION HABITS OF FARMERS

The average Kwanchung farmer was virtually self-sufficient in food. Poor farmers, without draft animals and with little land, generally had to supplement their own production with purchases from local food markets. More than 90 percent of the average Kwanchung farmer's diet was grain and cereal. Most of his vegetable consumption was in the spring, early summer, and fall although he had radishes and cabbage throughout the winter. On an annual basis, vegetables made up no more than five percent of his diet. Onion and garlic were used all year round but only with other vegetables. Fruit was not a regular component of the diet of a Kwanchung farmer unless he had a few fruit trees of his own. Most of the fruit production went to the city markets and some Kwanchung farmers tasted fruit only once or twice in a year. Sugar was used very infrequently.

6. The average Kwanchung farmer had meat only a few times a year, on special occasions such as the New Year, the May Fifth celebration, the Full Moon Festival in August, certain ancestral rites in early spring, Buddhist festivals, and sometimes on the birthday of older family members. A farmer rarely had meat outside these occasions and even if he had the money, meat was not regularly available in the rural areas. Most of the meat consumed was pork, although lamb was preferred during the winter on the basis of a traditional belief that lamb is a "hot" food. Lamb was not eaten in the summer. Those who could afford it had chicken and eggs from time to time. Farmers who kept hens sold most of their eggs in the market, keeping only a very small part for themselves. In the rural areas of Kwanchung only those farmers who lived near rivers and streams had any chance to add fish to their regular diet

-end-

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY